

STILL NO BUDGET!

The Legislature has not passed a budget bill for the new fiscal year that begins on Monday. Efforts to close the \$24 billion budget deficit have been made. However, a \$4 billion gap still remains even after legislators agreed on various budget shifts, department and program cuts, and borrowing at least \$4 to \$6 billion. Various legislative staffers are "betting" that the budget bill won't be passed until around July 15 - which is two weeks past the constitutional deadline.

COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

The [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) approved [AB 2648 \(Wyland\)](#) on Tuesday after taking an author's amendment to make its provisions applicable only to San Diego County. The County of San Diego is the sponsor of the measure.

Prior to its amendment, AB 2648 would have permitted county boards of supervisors to review any claims, expenses, or requests for reimbursement received from county law libraries. It also would have authorized boards of supervisors to reduce or deny such claims, while providing a process whereby a law library board of trustees could request a formal hearing before the board of supervisors to contest a reduction or denial.

Though counties viewed AB 2648 as an oversight mechanism, county law libraries and their umbrella organization, the Council of California County Law Librarians (CCCLL) viewed the measure as a threat to their very survival and the harbinger of severe cuts in services if enacted into law. The members of the Senate Judiciary Committee clearly concurred with the libraries' position, leading to the author's amendment to narrow the scope of the bill.

PANEL APPROVES BILL TO FACILITATE CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES INDEPENDENCE

The Assembly Judiciary Committee Tuesday unanimously (11-0) approved [SB 1897 \(Kuehl\)](#),

which, among other things, would specifically authorize the State Bar to collect voluntary fees on behalf of an independent successor entity to the Conference of Delegates. The provision is a key element in the recent agreement between the Bar's Board of Governors and the Conference's Executive Committee for the Conference to reorganize itself as a completely separate, independent entity.

The Conference of Delegates was created as part of the Bar in 1939 to provide a forum for local and specialty bar associations to recommend statutory changes relating to the practice of law and the administration of justice. Originally funded through mandatory dues, the Conference had restrictions placed on its activities as a result of the U.S Supreme Court's ruling in *Keller v. State Bar of California* (496 U.S. 1), and was required to become completely voluntarily funded by SB 144 of 1999, the bill that restored the Bar's funding in the wake of the 1997 veto.

RUMORS OF FBI IN THE CAPITOL

Due to the Oracle contract mess and large campaign fund raising efforts by many politicians in the Capitol, various legislators and staffers were telling a reporter that the Capitol is crawling with FBI agents. One Assembly staffer said: "I think everybody knows...I think everyone assumes that their phone is tapped and their e-mail is being read." In the mid to late 1980s the FBI conducted a major "sting" in the Capitol and various Assemblymembers, Senators, legislative staffers, and lobbyists went to federal prison. The sting continues to be a major topic discussed in the Capitol - especially for those who have been around the Capitol for the past 15 years.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE DATES

- **June 28** - Last day for policy committees to meet and report bills.
- **June 30** - Constitutional deadline for Governor to sign budget bill.
- **July 5 through August 4** - Summer Recess - if budget bill enacted.